



Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services

101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

240.777.6400 (Phone)
240.777.6442 (TTY)
240.777.6465 (Fax)

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
Email: recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov

This information is available in an alternate format
by calling Alan Pultyniewicz at 240.777.6400.



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Grasscycling.
Just Mow and Go!

THE GRASS IS GREENER ON YOUR SIDE

How long does it take you to care for your lawn? Did you know that many County residents spend a significant amount of time tending to their lawn? Why? If you mow your lawn with the mowing bag attached, you need to stop frequently and empty the grass clippings into paper lawn bags or into reusable containers. Then you must bring the bags and/or containers to the curb on your recycling collection day. What many residents are unaware of is that the hassle of lawn care could easily be remedied by simply leaving grass clippings on the lawn when cutting the grass. This allows the clippings to decompose back into the soil, serving as a natural, environmentally friendly lawn fertilizer. It also saves time by eliminating the need to collect and place the grass clippings into a paper bag or in a reusable container and placing the bag or container at the curb for recycling collection.

JUST MOW & GO

Grasscycling is simple and easy. It's a lot more efficient than picking up and placing the clippings in paper bags or in reusable containers for curbside recycling collection. With the proper tools and technique, you can reap all of the benefits of grasscycling, just follow these simple tips:

- ▶ Use a mulching mower that will cut grass into finer pieces. A traditional mower works just as well, just be sure the blades are sharp.
- ▶ It is important to cut no more than one third of the length of the blade of grass at a time and to maintain the grass at a height of two to three inches, depending on the type of grass.
- ▶ During the growing season, mowing should be done at least once a week.
- ▶ Cutting when the grass is dry allows for better distribution of the clippings and also lowers the chance of clogging your lawn mower.

Grasscycling is a great way to save time while improving the appearance and health of your lawn.

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Grasscycling is a natural process of lawn fertilization. By leaving grass clippings on the lawn after mowing you not only save time, but you are also helping your lawn and protecting the environment at the same time. Grass clippings are 75 to 85 percent water; they decompose quickly and release valuable nutrients back into the soil, reducing the need for purchasing and using commercial fertilizers. Proper grasscycling also reduces the need for watering. At the end of the day you will have a healthier looking lawn and a cleaner environment.



KNOW THE FACTS

Many residents fear that leaving grass clippings on the lawn may cause thatch. However thatch buildup is due mostly to improper watering and fertilization. Thatch is made up mostly of roots, dead leaf sheaths and rhizomes that decompose slowly. Grass clippings on the other hand decompose rapidly and make your lawn healthier, stronger, and more durable.

For more information on the benefits of grasscycling, call the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services at 240-777-6400 or visit our website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

Grasscycling. *Just Mow and Go!*

